

Serial No. 10/665,622
Response dated December 21, 2004 in
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Paragraph No. 0009 has been amended to correspond with currently amended Claim 7, which is discussed in considerable detail hereinbelow.

Claims 1-2 have been cancelled following the incorporation of their limitations into currently amended Claim 3. Claims 3-21 remain in this application. Claims 22 and 23 have been newly added with this amendment, but derive from the subject matter of original Claims 13 and 15 respectively. In this regard, it is the Applicant's respectful submission that no new matter has been introduced into the claims, and moreover that all of the claimed matter was described in the application as originally filed or was reasonably inferable therefrom.

While Claims 16-21 of the application were allowed in the Office Action dated September 22, 2004, the Examiner *inter alia* rejected Claims 1 and 2 of the application, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as having been anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,471,297 (Runde *et al.*). The Examiner did, however, acknowledge that Claims 3-15 would be allowable if Claim 3 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, and in compliance with the Examiner's suggestion in this regard, currently amended Claim 3 has been rewritten to include the limitations of Claims 1 and 2 as originally filed. In light of this amendment, the Applicant respectfully submits that currently amended Claim 3 is now directed to allowable subject matter, such that the Examiner's previous objection thereto is hereby respectfully traversed.

Next, the Applicant respectfully notes that currently amended Claim 7 has also been rewritten, in independent form, to include the limitations of Claims 1 and 5-6 as originally filed. With these amendments, it will be appreciated that the subject matter of currently amended Claim 7 is now directed to an armrest adjustment mechanism that includes, *inter alia*, a stop means having a guide pin with a removable extension segment. The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited Runde reference fails to disclose a stop means of the aforementioned nature, such that currently amended Claim 7 of the application should *not* be properly viewed as having been anticipated thereby. In this light, the Applicant respectfully submits that currently amended Claim 7 is now directed to allowable subject matter, such that the Examiner's previous objection thereto is hereby also respectfully traversed.

Currently amended Claims 8 and 9 now depend directly from Claims 6 and 7 respectively. Further, and in light of the aforementioned amendments to Claim 7, currently amended Claim 13 has been amended to ensure that there is a proper antecedent basis for each of the terms contained therein.

With the aforementioned amendments, each of Claims 4-6, 8-15 and 22-23 now depends, directly or indirectly, from one of currently amended Claims 3 and 7, such that it is the Applicant's respectful submission that each of these dependent claims is also properly viewed as being allowable.

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Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, with a view toward timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If after reviewing this response, the Examiner believes that a telephone or personal interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,



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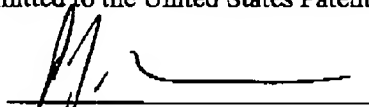
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this 8 page Response (exclusive of cover sheet) for Application Serial No. 10/665,622 is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 703-872-9306) on December 21, 2004.


Patrick J. Hofbauer

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